**Seattle Human Rights Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 1, 2017, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

**Commissioners Present:** Jonathan Nichols, Bill Dow, Pauline Alvarado, Jeremy Wood, Yasmin Christopher, Danielle Wallace, Ashley Miller

**Commissioners Present by Phone:** Sarah Bishop

**Commissioners Absent:** Marcel Baugh, Alice Serko, Amy Huang, Lara Diaconu, Tammy Morales, Fekadu Shibeshi

**SOCR Staff Present:** Marta Idowu, Maria Terra (SHRC extern)

Welcome and Introductions

**Call to Order:** By Jeremy Wood at 6:11am

**Approval of Minutes:** Bill suggests deleting after “so” above Trump Proof Seattle, Danielle states she was present, Danielle moves with edits and grammatical changes, Pauline seconds, all approve, none opposed or abstained.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of Agenda:** Bill moves to add conversation about soda tax/diet soda omission, Jeremy wishes to add discussion of Tammy’s letter regarding the youth jail.

**SOCR update:** Marta asks for volunteers for the Denver commission visit, none volunteer at this time.

**Appeals and Hearings Update:** Lara sent an update by email, Pauline reads. Lara is stepping down as of today because she is leaving for Romania and then starting law school. Pauline says that we will need a new Appeals chair. Maria can coordinate for the time being; she has a call scheduled with Lara tomorrow to understand the process and document it for the next appeals person.

We need three volunteers for this month’s appeals panel (6/26 at 1pm). We don’t know yet if there are appeals to be reviewed. Jeremy, Pauline, and Yasmin will do them by phone. Jon is an alternate.

Ashley asks if there is still a hearing on 7/5. Lara says yes, still need one person, starts at 9am. Yasmin is a tentative, barring some unforeseen circumstances by the state legislature.

Yasmin will be the point-person for appeals for the time being.

**Action items:**

**Maria Terra Introduction**

Maria explains how she ended up as our extern and her educational history. States that she wants to learn more about government, making this a good fit. She will be here until August 11. Maria just completed her Masters in Human Rights at the University of Minnesota.

**Soda tax legislation**

Bill explains the last-minute nature of the legislation, extols that it would be important for us to support RSJI/RET and reject the disregard for it.

Jonathan says it is unwise for the commission to debate the merits of the particular policy, but says that from our last meeting, we now have a blatant example from our City Council completely disregarding the Racial Equity Toolkit. Jon says that he is so-so on the soda tax as it is, but that this is a blatant disregard of the RET. Jon says he will support the letter.

Jon would like to make a friendly edit on the second page to remove “intentional exclusion of diet sodas” to “intentional disregard of RET.” Bill says it is friendly. Jeremy asks if we should exclude whole sentence other than that, Bill agrees. Danielle says we should get rid of “If the City is going to pass a soda tax…” line. Sarah suggests we clean up the second paragraph. Bill re-moves with suggestions, Yasmin re-seconds, all re-approve, none opposed or abstain.

**Closed-captioning letter**

Bill explains the goal behind it. It came up during our CRUEDA committee meeting re: task force and commission expansion. CM Herbold is going to champion it, and the People with DisAbilities commission has already supported it in the past.

Yasmin asks whether this will come at the expense of community and cultural programming. Bill says this came up at the committee and the hope is that it would be a budget addition among everybody. Bill says this is particularly important for the SHRC to champion, which is why we asked in our letter that there be a budget increase so community and cultural programming is not impacted.

Jeremy asks whether the People with DisAbilities commission has thoughts on the budget estimates, Bill does not know. Yasmin says that we should make a stronger pitch to make sure community programming and cultural/community programming is not affected. Bill agrees, we will say it must be increased.

Sarah asks that we add a human rights hook to our proposal, commission agrees.

Jeremy says, subject to edits and subject to further conversation with People with Disabilities commission, Ashley moves, Danielle seconds, all approve, none abstain or opposed.

**Commission Development and Expansion**

Jeremy explains how this came up, Mayor threatened to veto it last week. Jeremy has been in touch with co-chairs of other commissions, Cindi Laws thinks that it would be helpful if we each individually reach out to the Councilmembers.

Marta says the Community Police Commission has 21 members—7 seven commission seats, 7 mayoral seats, 7 city council seats. Marta says that they have a meeting coming up on 6/7 at 9:30 am, and she asks that somebody from the commission should come to support the proposal. Jeremy and Yasmin may both be able to come, Marta says it is only 10 minutes and early on.

Yasmin asks whether there are any councilmembers that seem to be in favor. Marta says they spoke to CM Harrell, and he was supportive 2-3 years ago. Yasmin says that she will contact CM Gonzalez’ office. Jeremy will visit with CM Johnson on the 6/13 or 6/14. Bill suggests reaching out to CM Bagshaw for a meeting, a guest is willing to help coordinate with that. Jeremy says he will link Yasmin in to the 5 Commission Chair thread.

Ashley asks if we can verbal commitments this done by 6/13 so we can get it all done by July. Commission tends to agree.

Jeremy asks who would be able to testify at the 6/13 hearing. Bill suggests Maria if we can’t find a commissioner. Marta says the People with disAbilities Commission will be coming. Danielle says that she has a meeting that ends at 9:30 but she will probably be able to leave early.

Danielle drafted a letter, asks if we should repurpose. Bill says we should consider changing it to be a letter to the Council asking for their support and strongly rebuking the last-minute turn by the Mayor. Danielle moves to approve such a letter, Jeremy asks whether we should include all the commissions, commission agrees that we should try to do one letter, Jeremy seconds, all approved, none opposed or abstaining. Danielle asks whether we have people who want to help edit over the next few days, Bill and Jeremy volunteer.

**Community Meetings**

The July 6 meeting is the potential meeting. Ashley says that we should add commissioner support to Maria’s work. Marta asks whether we want to use the SHRC budget to pay for a space, there seems to be some interest. Jonathan suggests reaching out to Tammy and Amy about where they were thinking, says he agrees with partnering with some organization so we can get sponsorship/discount.

Maria asks whether we should partner with a human rights organization or just a community organization, Jon says that we can just support a community organization. Pauline says she already has a list of organizations. Jeremy suggests trying to make it child care accessible. Pauline says that Coalition for Anti-Racist Whites has some hook-ups for child care that we can consider working with.

Ashley suggests that we provisionally budget $250 for the event, Danielle seconds, all approve, none opposed or abstain.

Maria asks whether the other commissions have done a community meeting. LGBTQ commission did community coffee shop talks. Marta says they did it at coffee shops, they went to all different neighborhoods and talk to people about their work. Marta says that they were effective. Marta says Lulu may be willing to talk, Maria says she will email the other commissioners to see if they have done similar outreach.

**Executive Team Update:**

**Commissioner Development Update**

Danielle asks if there are any people who want to join the team to start outreaching to and reviewing possible candidates. She says there are 4 seats upcoming in the near future, says that it would be great to have outreach to the community groups that we want to speak to.

**Human Rights Day**

Marta says that because Town Hall is going under construction, First Baptist will be the location again this year. Yasmin says that she will join the early conversations about planning 2017 Human Rights Day. Danielle says she would also like to get in on the planning in an advisory capacity. She says that this may be a great thing for people who are interested in joining the commission. Guest says she would be willing to help support that process.

**Task Force Business and other**

Jeremy explains that we have moved away from the task force structure, the reasons behind it. Bill suggests that we can consider going to task force model again. Yasmin asks why, Bill says because he is concerned that we’re having the opposite effect.

Yasmin suggests that we reach out to those who are absent from the meetings, Ashley says that Executive or Commissioner Development should do that. Jeremy suggests reaching out to Alice and to Marcel. Danielle says that some commissioners may not be coming because they do not feel like they have a role on the commission, we may try to figure that out.

Ashley suggests that as an offboarding task she can call each commissioner and have a discussion about the workplan with them. All agree.

Sarah, via message, asks for help researching an eviction issue at a SeaTac trailer park. Sarah wants help with research. Yasmin is wondering how SHRC can weigh in.

**Bill motions to adjourn at 8:00pm, Jonathan seconds.**